

LOCATING THE FIRE ON A TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

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(1987)

To locate the fire on their maps, the incident commander and the ECC officer pull the 7-1/2 minute map from an indexed map case. Concentric azimuth rings at marked distances have previously been inscribed on each map. A map stick graduated in 1/10 mile increments to the 7-1/2 minute map's scale has previously been provided for each set of such maps.

The map stick is laid across corresponding degree marks on the two azimuth sectors, those at 294-1/2 degrees, and a line is penciled along its edge to delineate the lookout's line of sight. The map stick is then used to measure the appropriate distance along this line which has been read out, in this case, 17.2 miles. This is found by measuring 1.2 miles out from the 16 mile azimuth sector (see [Topographic Map Location](#)).

Thus, in a very short time, the incident commander has a very accurate location from which he can

- make a sizeup.
- identify access for suppression equipment.
- evaluate topography and fuel type which will affect fire spread.
- identify the location of exposures to be protected.
- determine the locations for natural and manmade control lines.

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